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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending June 11, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: The rain has come and gone, but the sunshine has yet to return. The week consisted of cloudy overcast days that slowed growth of the field crops. Alfalfa and grass hay regrowth is looking promising for the second cutting. Although it was a good week for fieldwork, some farmers had problems with a surplus of moisture. Some of the crops, such as corn and soybeans, were damaged from severe rain and are currently being replanted. Moisture levels are high right now, so some more sunshine would be nice. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spraying pesticides and herbicides, repairing equipment, transplanting tobacco, cutting hay, filling silos, picking strawberries, and planting corn and soybeans.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 11, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	5	87	8

Crops: Planting of the corn crop is at 96 percent completion, 3 percent behind last year's pace, but still ahead of the 5-year average. The corn is now rapidly emerging at 85 percent, 4 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The corn condition has been reported as 68 percent in good or excellent condition with a corn height of 13 inches. Soybean planting is at 87 percent complete, 4 percent behind last year at this time. Emergence for the soybean crop is at 56 percent, which trails last year's figure and the 5-year average. Thirty-four percent of the winter wheat crop has turned yellow. The wheat crop condition, which is doing well, was reported as 76 percent good or better. Twenty-nine percent of the oat crop is headed, advancing significantly faster than the 5-year average. Seventy-one percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. In comparison with last year, cutting for alfalfa is 3 percent ahead at 72 percent complete. The timothy/clover cutting for hay is 37 percent complete, the same as the year before. The quality of hay made at this point in time was reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

All fruits for Pennsylvania are now considered to be in full bloom. Peach condition slightly improved this week. Seventy-nine percent of the peaches and 91 percent of the apples were reported as good or excellent.

Livestock: The pastures finally turned greener, but now farmers are concerned about livestock overgrazing. Pastures are showing a slow

rate of regrowth. This week's pasture conditions are the following: 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

U.S. as of June 6, 2006: Warm weather prevailed across most of the Nation. Temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in portions of the Great Lakes region. The higher temperature allowed soybean emergence to progress rapidly, but rain drastically slowed soybean planting in the eastern Corn Belt. Rainfall totaled 2 inches or more in many nearby locations, perpetuating soil saturation in previously flooded areas.

Corn: Emergence, at 94 percent, was the same as last year but 5 percentage points ahead of normal. The crop emerged rapidly in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas. Progress was 7 points or more ahead of normal in the eastern Corn Belt region, as well as most other states.

Soybeans: Seeding advanced to 89 percent complete, the same as last year but 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was ahead of the normal pace everywhere except in Indiana and North Carolina. In some states, including Pennsylvania, planting was at least 10 points ahead of normal. Meanwhile, emergence had begun on 70 percent of the acreage, compared with 67 percent last year and 58 percent for the 5-year national average. The crop emerged rapidly, advancing 28 points nationwide, under warm conditions and adequate rainfall across most growing areas.

Winter Wheat: Eighty-eight percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 2 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states. Growers had harvested 9 percent of their acreage, compared with 3 percent last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was just getting underway in Kansas and Missouri, but had not yet begun across the remainder of the Corn Belt.

Small Grains: Ninety-three percent of the barley crop had emerged, the same as last year but 5 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in all states, except Idaho. In Pennsylvania and several surrounding states, about 60 percent of the barley has turned yellow, advancing approximately 25 points from the previous week.

Oat heading advanced to 28 percent, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Across Pennsylvania and the Corn Belt, oats are heading at a much slower pace than the southern states, but progress is still holding steady at the 5-year average pace.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 11, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 11, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	52	62	-3	0.25	2	7.24	-0.93	32	540	114	1,131
Franklin	82	38	61	-3	0.10	1	9.08	0.13	32	503	88	1,135
Meadville	80	42	61	-2	0.05	1	7.68	-1.05	31	507	142	1,112
Mercer	82	37	61	-4	0.12	1	10.49	1.70	33	470	47	1,090
Springboro	80	36	59	-6	0.20	2	10.45	2.72	34	430	-12	998
Warren	81	39	61	-4	0.44	2	8.75	-0.53	33	452	54	1,049
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	32	57	-4	0.21	2	8.13	-1.11	34	331	68	867
Emporium	82	37	61	-1	0.64	2	9.22	-0.25	34	434	132	1,068
Kane	78	30	56	-4	0.16	2	7.39	-2.10	29	272	15	801
Laporte	70	40	57	-8	0.75	6	9.13	0.17	35	353	-65	930
Lock Haven	81	42	63	-2	1.09	3	8.80	0.33	30	545	81	1,210
Port Allegany	78	37	58	-4	0.27	2	7.36	-1.43	28	349	31	910
Renovo	81	41	62	-3	0.98	3	9.23	0.76	32	523	59	1,181
Ridgway	80	34	59	-3	0.39	2	8.90	-0.57	34	360	58	947
Stevenson Dam	82	39	61	1	0.58	2	6.77	-2.70	28	483	181	1,135
Towanda	79	41	61	-4	0.42	4	6.60	-1.09	30	466	36	1,085
Wellsboro	78	39	58	-2	0.44	3	7.76	0.60	30	343	72	903
Williamsport	77	46	63	-4	0.44	3	7.19	-1.44	29	605	58	1,270
Northeast												
Hawley	73	43	58	-4	0.82	2	13.18	4.35	26	372	45	954
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	74	43	60	-6	0.71	4	6.44	-1.61	27	563	66	1,206
Susquehanna	74	44	59	-3	0.94	5	8.96	-0.20	36	398	94	995
West Central												
Butler	83	38	61	-4	0.26	1	9.71	0.82	31	486	36	1,129
New Castle	83	40	62	-3	0.10	1	9.43	1.47	34	589	142	1,243
Slippery Rock	83	39	62	-2	0.44	3	10.94	2.46	37	517	116	1,160
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	43	62	-5	0.39	3	5.30	-2.95	27	556	42	1,215
DuBois	80	34	60	-4	0.70	2	9.14	0.02	35	451	38	1,061
Lewistown	80	48	65	-3	0.44	2	8.09	-0.54	29	596	14	1,269
Middletown	80	53	66	-3	0.55	2	6.36	-2.61	24	778	110	1,468
Prince Gallitzi	80	36	59	-4	0.18	2	9.33	-1.21	32	378	9	986
Selinsgrove	78	48	63	-4	0.87	4	8.62	-0.10	28	566	53	1,231
State College	78	44	62	-4	0.91	2	6.60	-1.40	27	585	88	1,255
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	76	50	63	-6	0.60	4	7.04	-2.10	30	675	87	1,349
Lehighton	75	49	62	-6	0.73	5	9.22	0.12	34	569	9	1,224
Matamoras	75	46	59	-7	1.27	4	9.48	-0.18	33	436	-47	1,051
Mt_Pocono	70	40	56	-4	0.80	5	10.74	0.59	35	372	107	961
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	47	64	-2	0.31	3	7.91	-0.94	33	673	155	1,352
Derry	81	38	61	-4	0.64	1	10.87	2.18	31	510	47	1,157
Myersdale	75	35	57	-8	0.13	2	8.55	-1.13	36	281	-169	858
Mount Pleasant	80	37	61	-3	0.45	4	9.92	-0.06	32	473	84	1,115
Pittsburgh Intl	81	42	63	-4	0.22	2	7.82	-0.24	31	651	95	1,318
Connellsville	83	41	62	-5	0.29	3	10.29	0.74	38	605	26	1,271
Waynesburg	81	39	61	-4	0.35	3	6.91	-1.90	31	524	32	1,184
South Central												
Biglerville	79	47	64	-6	0.22	2	7.90	-0.54	29	670	5	1,357
Everett	80	42	58	-8	0.35	3	8.82	0.66	31	390	-102	1,047
Hanover	79	47	64	-5	0.10	1	6.90	-1.54	30	654	-11	1,335
Harrisburg_AP	81	53	66	-4	0.53	2	7.38	-1.59	27	745	70	1,435
South Mountain	76	43	60	-6	0.31	2	8.40	0.15	31	454	-53	1,101
York	79	45	64	-6	0.32	2	6.53	-2.32	29	654	-21	1,329
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	49	63	-4	0.55	3	9.95	1.02	29	676	128	1,354
Hamburg	78	51	64	-2	0.35	4	7.08	-3.44	32	709	239	1,385
West_Chester	80	41	62	-7	0.55	3	9.21	-0.51	26	618	-34	1,290
Lancaster	78	50	64	-4	0.51	2	9.24	0.51	27	701	110	1,385
Neshaminy Falls	76	51	62	-6	1.44	3	11.41	1.50	27	603	18	1,283
New Holland	78	49	64	-4	0.26	2	6.72	-2.01	27	710	119	1,390
Philadelphia	77	51	66	-5	0.65	3	9.53	0.84	23	902	177	1,609
Philadelphia NE	78	53	66	-5	0.62	2	11.71	3.02	26	876	151	1,578
Reading	76	50	64	-5	0.50	4	8.13	-1.70	28	744	178	1,425
Valley Forge Na	80	46	64	-7	0.62	4	8.65	-0.57	27	690	-15	1,372
Willow Grove	76	51	64	-5	0.77	4	8.79	-1.12	28	753	168	1,445

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County continues to be dry. No rainfall in the county this past week. We are still in a drought status.

Corn and soybean planting are just about complete. Some soybeans may be double cropped after barley and wheat depending on soil moisture in a few weeks. Most corn and soybeans have now emerged and are looking good.

Hay making this week wasn't good due to the cloudy daytime conditions. Hay has produced extremely less tons per acre this year for some reason. Hopefully we will get some rainfall and help the growth for possibly a 2nd crop late summer.

Barley is ripe and will be harvested in the next week and wheat is starting to turn color and will be harvested towards the end of June.

Strawberries continue to be harvested in the county and some are reporting a lighter crop this year.

Apples and peaches overall looks like a full crop. Tart cherries will start to be harvested around June 22nd for the processing plants. Sweet cherries will be around the same timeframe. Cherries are yellow in color right now and look to be a decent crop.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Cooler weather this week. Showers were very spotty. Corn is growing rapidly and 2nd cutting of alfalfa is about to begin. Barley is ripe and expect some will be harvested in the next few days. Sweet cherries are being picked and tart cherries will be harvested later this month, a few days ahead of normal. Fruit crops still looking good.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - Crops are growing well due to much needed showers. Barley reports are starting to come in. Hay making this week.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Regular showers have kept hay making equipment in the shed last week. Corn is progressing but needs some heat. Bean planting plodded ahead as many fields were too wet to work. Grass hay should get made in abundance this week if the weather holds, although it is well past optimum maturity.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Some heavy rains this week with cool temperatures. It feels more like fall than spring. Most of the crops are planted. A few fields remain to be planted.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Crops are showing some improvement. We got another 1/2 inch of rainfall during the week. Most first cutting hay has been cut.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Just enough rain to stop field work. Snap bean growers are falling behind in planting. Need some heat as crops are not growing much. Could be worse- was in Ohio over the weekend and their crops looked tough. Too much moisture.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Good week for getting hay made and wrapping up planting and filling silo. Many pastures are showing signs of overgrazing and slow regrowth making good pasture management a necessity.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Abundant soil moisture conditions following a week of rain. Saturday brought out the mowers in anticipation of finally a good drying period. Timely harvest for timothy hay should result in an excellent cutting. Second cutting of alfalfa proceeding.

Producers finishing up with planting of full season crops, waiting for barley harvest for double crops.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT) - Many corn fields with erratic stands. Oats seemed not to be too damaged by cereal leaf beetle.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Temperature dropped to 32 degrees on Sunday morning. Some areas had frost. Most farmers have 1st crop hay wrapped or chopped. Farmers are saying "yields are very low compared to the last 4 years".

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Several weeks ago, there was concern about the lack of rain; now it is the opposite. There has been too much in some areas, corn has turned yellow and purple, soybeans have rotted, and other crops in poorly drained areas are suffering. It was a difficult week to make dry hay. However, the second growth of alfalfa is starting off very well. The wheat and barley are looking good. Very poor weed control is showing up in some corn fields. The main activities were haymaking, spraying herbicides, and planting corn and soybeans.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Clouds, clouds, clouds. Oh, and some rain too. Very difficult week to accomplish any field work.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Rain till Saturday morning; now the sun is out. What a good site to see. Corn is growing despite the cold wet conditions. Lots of hay to be done when we can get on the fields.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Below normal temperatures continue causing slow plant growth and difficult harvest conditions. Some corn and soybeans planted in April and early May have not done well and are being replanted. Some other corn is doing very well and is already being side-dressed with fertilizer.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 11, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	96	99	92
Corn, emerged	85	89	81
Corn average height, inches	13	8	10
Barley, turning yellow	85	77	73
Barley, ripe	25	0	0
Barley, harvested	7	0	0
Wheat, turning yellow	34	6	17
Oats, heading or headed	29	16	18
Soybeans, planted	87	91	78
Soybeans, emerged	56	68	59
Tobacco, transplanted	90	64	65
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	72	69	60
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	37	37	30

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 11, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	4	27	48	20
Wheat	0	3	21	56	20
Oats	0	2	27	61	10
Soybeans	0	2	18	67	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	18	55	25
Timothy clover stand	1	4	31	50	14
Quality of hay made	1	3	25	54	17
Pasture	1	7	28	50	14
Peaches	0	0	21	40	39
Apples	1	1	7	46	45

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